Uthimood Peroochal road.

68. * **Mr. K. S. Joseph** (*Mavelikara and Tiruvalla* cum *Pathanamthitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether representations have been received from interested ryots praying that the Uthimood Peroochal road be taken under departmental maintenance ;

(*b*) if so, when it was first received ;

(*c*) the date of construction of the road ; and

(*d*) what steps they have taken to comply with the request?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In 1920.

(*c*) About the year 1920.

(*d*) The ryots have to complete their portion of the work according to the Ryots' Road Rules, but steps are being taken to see if the road, as it exists, can be taken up under departmental maintenance.

Mr. K. S Joseph : May I know whether a copy of the Ryots' Road Rules have been given to the ryots concerned?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan : I do not know. I hope it will be very soon published for the information of the ryots.

Mr. K. S. Joseph : May I know why for the last 25 years it was not possible for the Department to take that road under departmental maintenance?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan : As I said the rules will be published very soon. As a matter of fact the rules were made available to the public from a very long time and they must be aware of the implications contained therein.

Karukappadam in Karunagapalli.

69. * **Mr. N. Narayana Kurup :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is a field known as Karukappadam on either side of the Ochira-Ayiramthengu road in Karunagapalli ;

(*b*) if so, what is the extent of that field ;

(*c*) whether it is being cultivated annually ;

(*d*) whether it is liable to the ingress of salt water during cultivation ;

(*e*) whether they have through their subordinates received any applications from the owners for remission of tax this year or before on the ground of failure of crop due to the ingress of salt water ; and

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(*f*) if so, when they were received and what action has been taken on them?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) About 166 acres.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) in view of the answer to part (*e*), the question does not arise.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: In answer to part (*a*) of the question, may I know whether that answer was given after enquiry from the subordinate offices?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan: Yes, Sir.

Water tax levied by the Alleppey Municipality.

70. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have permitted the Alleppey Municipality to realise water tax from the inhabitants of the town;

(*b*) if so, what is the rate of water tax;

(*c*) whether it is equal to the house tax;

(*d*) whether water pipe connection is given to houses in the town;

(*e*) how long it is since the water tax has been realised; and

(*f*) whether they are aware that water tax is being levied without supplying water to the houses in the town?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 3 per cent. of the annual rental value.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Nearly 5 years.

(*f*) Yes.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: May I know why the Government are allowing the realisation of tax without granting a corresponding benefit to the people?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan: Water tax is mainly levied for maintenance of the supply system and it is not possible to make any discrimination between one man and another in a Municipality. Further, so far as domestic consumption is concerned the people who desire to have that privilege of taps in their houses will have to pay excess charges and that is not confined to the inhabitants of Alleppey who have water connections to their houses. The tax now levied relates to maintenance and therefore it is a general tax levied by the Alleppey Municipality.

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